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The Committee in charge of the arrangements for the Congress has accepted the invitation of the American Geographical Society to hold two or three meetings in the City of New York. These meetings will be held on September 13, 14 and 15, at hours and places hereafter to be designated by the American Geographical Society.

Fellows of this Society will please take notice that membership in the Congress may be acquired on application, with a remittance of Five Dollars, to

THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS
EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS,
Hubbard Memorial Hall,
Washington, D. C.

Members of the Congress will receive the publications and enjoy the other privileges, as above noted.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AMERICA.

MUIR GLACIER RETREATING.—Since 1899 excursion boats from Sitka have not been able to approach the main glacier nearer than from five to ten miles. The channel of Muir Inlet has been choked with ice. A series of severe earthquakes occurred late in 1899, and it is supposed the impassable condition of Muir Inlet is due largely to the consequent breaking down of the front of the glacier, which clogged the inlet with ice. In May last Messrs. Andrews and Case of Skagway forced their way with difficulty to the glacier, and discovered that its front had retired two and a half miles in four years, a higher rate of retrogression than had been observed before. The rate of recession for twenty years after John Muir rediscovered the glacier in 1879 was about a mile in seven years. The present indications are that before long Muir Glacier will cease to reach tide water.

FORESTS AND RAINFALL.—The local impression that for some years the Rock River of Wisconsin and Illinois has been decreasing in volume, or has at least been changing in the regularity of its flow, has led the Forestry Bureau to undertake a study of *The*

Diminished Flow of the Rock River in Wisconsin and Illinois and its Relation to the Surrounding Forests (Bull. No. 44, 1903, 27 pp., by G. F. Schwarz). The geology, the topography, the forests, and the rainfall have been carefully studied, and the results are of considerable interest in connection with the old, but ever new, question as to the influence of forests upon rainfall. The geological formation and the topography of the watershed of the Rock River are believed to favour a sustained water supply; but the forests have been cut down over considerable areas since the region became settled, and the conditions of growth in the remaining ones have changed for the worse. Woodlots and cultivated fields have been converted into pasturage, and this has interfered with the waterflow; while swamps and fields in many cases have been artificially drained. It is estimated that the total forest area at the time of the first settlements was 75 per cent., while now it is 30 per cent.; and whereas the forests originally contained a natural undergrowth of moss, herbs, seedlings, shrubs, and the like, which helped to retain the moisture, the forest mould has now become scant and thin, and grass and weeds have replaced the shrubbery and saplings. As regards rainfall, Weather Bureau records for the period 1885–1903 show a decrease in precipitation, and this loss must have lessened the volume of the river slightly, although the fluctuations in flow are believed to have been caused by artificial drainage and changes in the forest conditions of the region. While many persons would be disposed to jump at the conclusion: Deforestation and decreased rainfall, cause and effect, it is satisfactory to note that this *Bulletin* does not make any such deductions. Emphasis is laid on the fact that the changes in the conditions of the forest cover and of the forest litter have doubtless brought about changed conditions of evaporation and of the retention of moisture in the soil, and have thus affected the flow of the Rock River. The conclusion reached is as follows:

> While it cannot safely be asserted that forest destruction has produced any falling off in the annual precipitation over the region, the amount of water which finds its way into the streams—that is, the rainfall minus the evaporation—is somewhat less than it would be had the original forest conditions remained undisturbed (p. 19).

This is a conservative statement, which one likes to see in these days when so much which is quite unsupported by facts is said on this subject.

It may not be out of place to note that in the swing of the climatic pendulum towards a somewhat drier period, which has been noted at many stations in the western United States, beginning about the middle 80's, Brückner has found satisfactory confirmation of his earlier conclusions as to a 35-year periodicity of climate (Pet. Mitth., XLVIII, 1902, 173–178).

R. DeD. W.

CLIMATOLOGY OF CALIFORNIA, by Alexander G. McAdie. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau. Bulletin L. 4to, 270 pp. Washington, D. C., 1903.

Professor McAdie, Section Director of the Weather Bureau at San Francisco, has for some years been paying special attention to the climatology of California, and has published numerous short articles on various aspects of it in the monthly *Bulletins* of the California Climate and Crop Service. The present volume of 270 pages, with numerous charts, curves, and half-tone illustrations, combines these shorter contributions, together with a great deal more of interest and value, into one whole, and constitutes the most complete account of the climate of any one State which our Weather Bureau has issued. Our general criticism would be the rather disjointed character of the report, and the apparent lack of any systematic scheme of presentation. The accounts of the climate of individual places or districts, when taken one after another, give the *Bulletin* somewhat the character of a climatological dictionary, with a good deal of the "dry" quality of such a publication. Extensive tabulations of temperatures, precipitation, and the like are in place in any publication which deals with the climatology of any region, but we cannot help wishing that more attention would everywhere be paid to the individual weather types which, when taken together, make up the average condition called Climate. Mere tabulated data are usually lifeless unless a good deal in the way of verbal description of these weather types is included. We cannot help feeling that this side of climatology is destined to receive much more attention in the future. Professor McAdie has, it should be noted, given a good introductory account of the controlling factors in the climatology of California, in which the types of pressure distribution causing wet and dry months in California are set forth and illustrated, as are the movements of Pacific Coast storms. Among other points of interest in the *Bulletin* are chapters on Frost, including methods of protection with illustrations, and on Fog in the vicinity of San Francisco, also illustrated. The latter paper we should have been glad to see extended so as to include a complete discussion of the fogs of the southern California coast, concerning which it is not always easy to secure authoritative information. R. DeC. W.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EARLY INHABITANTS OF AMERICA AND THOSE OF ASIA.—The *American Museum Journal* (October, 1903) is devoted to a résumé of the history of the organization of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, and of the field work which it has carried out. The résumé was prepared by Professor Boas, to whom President Jesup intrusted the planning and direction of the whole expedition. The specialists who co-operated in the field work are now engaged in studies of the materials collected. It is estimated that the series of scientific reports resulting from the expedition will fill at least twelve quarto volumes. The *Journal* says that the expedition seems to have established the close relationship between the people of Asia and America. It seems clear that " the isolated tribes of Eastern Siberia and those of the northwest coast of America form one race, similar in type and with many elements of culture in common." The unity of race appears to have been much greater in former times than at present. The former conditions were disturbed by the invasion of eastern tribes in America, such as the Eskimo, Athabascan, and Salish, and of western and southern tribes in Asia, such as the Yakut and Tungus. But enough remains to lead to the conclusion "that the tribes of this whole area must be considered as a single race or at least that their culture is a single culture, which at one time was found in both the northeastern part of the Old World and the northwestern part of the New World."

VOLCANO OF COLIMA.—*The Journal of Geology* (Vol. XI, No. 8) prints a translation of a part of Father Arreola's pamphlet on the eruptions of Colima, Western Mexico, in February and March, 1903, when the volcano was notably active. In his conclusions Father Arreola says the volcano has been active from time immemorial. The intervals between the periods of great activity and the duration of these periods are irregular. It is believed that the volcano has never thrown out lava, evidently because the expulsive force is insufficient to overcome the height—3,960 metres above sea-level. The lava rises to a level lower than this in the crater, but only the hot scoriæ, floating upon its surface, overflow. The ejected matter is fragmentary material—pebbles and sand of various degrees of fineness, which do not appear to have proceeded from the internal reservoir. The heavier products erupted fall upon the higher slopes of the volcano, not more than four or five kilometres from the crater, where they do no harm. The pebbles and sand which rain upon the low and populated districts have caused no damage. There is no sulphur in the emanations, and solfataras have not been discovered. As there is no sign that the eruptive power is augmenting, the inhabitants of the surrounding country may live tranquilly. Loud explosions sometimes occur, but have not produced earthquakes.

GLACIERS OF ECUADOR.—Dr. Hans Meyer, the explorer of Kilimanjaro, spent the summer of 1903 in the study of glacial phenomena among the cordilleras of Ecuador. In a letter to the *Zeitschrift* of the Berlin Geographical Society (1903, No. 7, pp. 527–30), he reports that he investigated the névé and glaciers of Chimborazo, Altar, and Cotopaxi, and the lesser-known summits of Quilindaña and Carihuairazo. He attained an elevation of 20,276 feet on Chimborazo, and reached the crater of Cotopaxi, which he found to be about 1,470 feet deep and 2,625 feet wide. Few vapours escape and no eruption has occurred in a long time. He found that the glaciers differ from those he has studied in Europe and Africa in their structure, stratification, and the size of the grains composing the névé, and also in the appearance and extent of the moraines and their working upon the rocks underlying them. The glaciers resemble those of Equatorial Africa, in the fact that the glaciers of earlier periods extended from 2,300 to 2,600 feet further down the mountain slopes than the present glaciers, as is shown by their moraines.

SAND DUNES AND THEIR CONTROL.—The migration of sand dunes under the influence of wind has given rise to much trouble, and often to considerable economic loss in cases where areas valuable for agriculture or for settlement are encroached upon by the advancing sands. This is one of the many ways in which meteorological phenomena affect man. The control of the movement of these sands is a problem which needs serious attention. In the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, an article by A. S. Hitchcock, on "Controlling Sand Dunes in the United States and Europe" takes up some of the methods of such control. Where vegetation is dormant for a considerable part of the year (as in winter on our Atlantic coast), the winter storms may prevent a covering of vegetation from growing on the dunes; while in regions of dry summers, as along the Columbia River in Oregon, the dunes form during the dry season. The fixation of the dunes by means of vegetation is very largely governed by the climate of the region, which determines the season of migration of the dunes, as well as the kind of plants which shall grow on them. R. DE C. W.

AFRICA.

DISAPPEARANCE OF LAKE SHIRWA.—*Petermanns Mitteilungen* (No. X, 1903) says that the missionaries in British Central Africa report that Lake Shirwa, long represented on the maps as an oval-shaped body of water, about thirty miles long, and ten to fifteen miles wide, to the southeast of Lake Nyassa, has now entirely disappeared. It has been in process of drying up for many years, but the last stages of desiccation were remarkably rapid. Nothing remains of the water surface excepting a few small ponds where the larger brooks flowed into the lake. The chain of islands, among which Mchisi and Tongwe were most prominent, has become a range of hills, and the canoes of the natives are scattered about over the lake bed. The lake was discovered by Livingstone in 1859. It is noteworthy that the first two of the lakes he revealed have now entirely disappeared. He found the placid water surface of Ngami, covering an area of 300 square miles, now a reedy plain, as every vestige of the lake has vanished. In 1883 the natives on one shore of Lake Shirwa refused to ferry Henry Drummond across the lake because their enemies, the Angoni, lived on the other side. The disappearance of these lakes is due to the gradual desiccation which has been in progress for many years over a large area of inner Africa.

TRAINS RUNNING TO KUMASSI.—The railroad from Sekondi, a Gold Coast Colony port on the Gulf of Guinea, was completed on October 1 last, when the first train entered Kumassi, the chief town of Ashanti. The road, 180 miles long, has been building since 1898, the thickness of the bush and the scarcity of labour making progress slow. The enterprise was carried out by the Government of the Gold Coast Colony at a cost of about $8,000,000.

THE SAHARA ENCROACHING UPON THE SUDAN.—Sir Frederick D. Lugard, High Commissioner for Northern Nigeria, in a paper read before the Royal Geographical Society (*Geog. Jour.*, Jan., 1904) says the Sahara is encroaching upon the Hausa States, which border it on the south:

> Much of the distance we traversed between Zaria and Kano and thence to Sokoto and Katsena was over heavy, loose sand where walking is most laborious. Wind-borne sand from the Sahara, which forms the dust-laden atmosphere of the Hamattan,* is constantly being deposited. But probably more important in the process of desiccation is the deforestation of the country. The Asbenawa with their camels are destroying every young acacia and tamarind by hacking them down as fodder, and every great giant tree by lopping off all its limbs till only a dying bole remains. I hope to effect a check on this before it is too late.

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* Sir Frederick's spelling of the word *Harmattan.*

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—The Report on the British Central Africa Protectorate for 1902–1903 says that in spite of difficulties the figures for both imports and exports are larger than in the previous year. In the list of exports cotton is mentioned for the first time, and this product seems to promise good results. In the Blantyre district some 300 acres are under cultivation, and the samples sent home have been reported as satisfactory. The cultivation of tea is confined to the slopes of Mlanje Mountain and is still in the experimental stage. The health of the European population continues to improve with the gratifying decline of the death-rate. Arrangements have been made for the construction of a railroad from Chiromo, the British customs port, on the lower Shire River, to Blantyre, to he subsequently extended to Lake Nyassa.

CAUSE OF SLEEPING SICKNESS.—The reports of the Sleeping Sickness Commission (Nos. I–IV, Royal Society, London, 1903) give evidence to show that the dreaded and mysterious illness known as sleeping sickness, which has caused the death of many thousands of persons on the Congo and in Uganda, is a human tsetse-fly disease.

It is caused by the entrance into the blood and cerebro-spinal fluid of a species of trypanosoma, probably *Trypanosoma Gambiense.* The trypanosomes are transmitted from the sick to the healthy by a species of tsetse fly, *Glossina palpalis*, and by it alone. The discovery was made by Dr. Castellani while he was in Uganda studying the disease. He found the parasite in the cerebro-spinal fluid of nearly 70 per cent. of the cases of sleeping sickness examined by him at Entebbe, Uganda, in the early part of 1893. The accuracy of his deductions as to the cause of the disease has since been conclusively shown. It is estimated that 30,000 native inhabitants of Uganda have died of sleeping sickness since its sudden appearance among them two years.

EUROPE.

GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH.—The Council of the Royal Geographical Society has organized a new section of the Society's work, to be known as the Research Department. A research committee has been appointed, and papers giving the results of researches on the geography of Great Britain and other regions and on geographic methods and problems will be read and discussed at periodical meetings. The Research Committee may recommend to the

Council awards not exceeding $1,000 in any one year for encouragement of geographic research. The applicants recommended for grants shall be either about to undertake work with the approval of the Research Committee or, having submitted an adequate piece of work to that committee, may make application for a grant to defray expenses incurred. The executive Sub-Committee has invited members to submit papers on subjects suitable for discussion, to introduce workers in geography who may be willing to submit papers, and to suggest any line of investigation that seems specially desirable, and the names of persons or institutions competent and likely to undertake the work. In a paper on this new department (*Geog. Jour.*, Jan., 1904), Col. Sir T. H. Holdich expresses the opinion that in this special branch of the work of the Society new impulses can be given to the progress of geographical education and new fields opened for students anxious to make practical use of the theoretical instruction they have received. It is hoped that the Research Committee "may render verdicts in matters relating to the political, commercial, economic, and military phases of geographical inquiry of appreciable value in assisting the counsels of those who administer the government of the empire."

THE SEA OF AZOV.—Recent newspaper reports that the Sea of Azov is drying up are not quite accurate. It is not in process of desiccation, but it is slowly silting up. The mean depth of the sea is only 32 feet. The amount of sediment annually emptied into it, chiefly from the Don River, is about 230,000,000 cubic feet, and, at this rate of progress, the Sea of Azov will be filled up in about 56,000 years. The results of the filling-in process are appreciable from century to century, but still it is slow work. The ruins of the town of Tanais, founded by the Greeks many centuries ago at the mouth of the Don, are now six miles inland.

The newspaper report was due to a phenomenon that recently occurred in the long, narrow arm of the sea known as the Gulf of Taganrog. The waters at Taganrog, the chief wheat port, receded so that for several days the bottom of the gulf was visible for two or three miles. This phenomenon is not unprecedented in these waters. The depth of the gulf is only 10 to 12 feet. Under the influence of strong and persistent winds the level of the water is sometimes raised or lowered from 10 to 15 feet. When the level is lowered the bottom of parts of the gulf is sometimes exposed to view for several days.

POLAR.

THE SCOTTISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION. — The *Scotia*, the steamer of the Scottish Antarctic Expedition, arrived at Buenos Aires from the Antarctic on December 15. A brief despatch from Mr. Bruce, commander of the expedition, reports that its scientific work has been very successful up to this time. A hydrographic survey was made over an area covering about 4,000 miles of the little-known Weddell Sea, where the deepest sounding obtained was 2,700 fathoms. Ross reported no bottom at 4,000 fathoms in the neighhourhood of this region. The series of soundings will be an addition to our knowledge of this part of the ocean, and the examination of the organisms obtained at these great depths may yield very interesting results. It is expected that after refitting at Buenos Aires the *Scotia* will return to the South Orkneys and penetrate southern waters again for another summer's work.

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY.

OCEAN CABLES IN 1903.—There were in operation, in 1903, 252,436 miles of ocean cables, of which only 38,797 miles, or about 15 per cent., were owned by Governments, the remainder being in the hands of private owners. British capitalists control more than half the total length of the submarine lines, their cables having a length of 154,099 miles, of which 14,963 miles are owned by the Government. The United States is second on the list, with 44,970 miles of cable, nearly all in private hands, the Government controlling only a short mileage in Alaskan waters. France has the third place, with a total length of 24,010 miles, of which 10,092 are the property of the State. The most important of the submarine connections of France are the two lines between Brest and the United States. Danish capitalists place Denmark fourth on the list, with 9,488 miles, chiefly confined to the important cable system in the Orient, which connects Vladivostok with Nagasaki, Shanghai, and Hongkong. Germany is fifth, with 9,228 miles of cable, which will be increased in 1904 by the completion of the second line between the Island of Borkum, at the mouth of the Ems, and New York City. The seventeen other countries which take a financial interest in cables have altogether only 11,131 miles of lines, nearly all of them owned by the various Governments. (*Deutsche Rundschau für Geographie und Statistik*, Oct., 1903.)

FOREIGN SHIPPING IN THE CHINESE TRADE.—The Comité de l'Asie Française has reported on the increased facilities of the leading commercial nations for their trade with China. Italy will soon have a direct line between Genoa and Shanghai. The Osaka Shosen Kaisha of Japan has put five new steamers on the Yangtse; the Tokyo Kisen Kaisha intends to maintain a bi-monthly service between Hongkong and San Francisco, and also a service between Hongkong, Manila, Java, and Singapore. The tonnage movement of the Chinese ports in 1901 was 48,000,000. Great Britain's share was 51 per cent.; Germany had 16; China, 13; Japan, 11; America, 2; and Russia, 1 per cent. In the previous year Germany's share in the total tonnage was 10 per cent., and the increase in 1901 was due to the rivalry between the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd, which now maintain four monthly or weekly lines in the coasting trade, and two lines on the Yangtse. The tonnage on the Yangtse increased from 20,000,000, in 1898, to 30,700,000 in 1901. Since 1898 Japan has nearly quadrupled its tonnage in Chinese waters, Germany has tripled its tonnage, and Great Britain, still far in the lead, has not doubled its tonnage. (*Annales de Géog.*, March, 1903.)

FRUIT FROM SOUTH AFRICA.—South Africa is becoming more important every year as a source of supply for the fresh fruit markets of Great Britain. The fruit ripens during the late winter of the northern hemisphere, is placed in cold storage on steamships, and reaches England in the spring months. Exports from Cape Colony in the year ending June 30, 1903, were 21,968 boxes, of which 9,043 boxes were grapes, 7,457 plums, and 3,276 peaches. Plums, as yet, form the most successful branch of the trade, as they arrive in perfect condition. Grapes are especially in demand, but the problem of packing them satisfactorily has not been completely solved, and many arrive in bad condition.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

CATALOGUE AND INDEX OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Bulletin No. 215 of the United States Geological Survey is a Catalogue and Index of the publications of the Survey from 1901 to 1903. It supplements Bulletin No. 177. These two volumes form a catalogue and index of the Survey's publications from its organization in 1879 to the present time.

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM.—Bulletin 288 of the University of the State of New York provides a complete index to the publications of the New York State Natural History Survey from 1837 to 1902, inclusive. The volume contains a full list of the publications and authors, a subject index, and an index to the descriptions of fossils.

ANNUAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE ANNALES DE GÉOGRAPHIE.—The twelfth Annual Geographical Bibliography of the Annales de Géographie covers the most important literature of 1902. The number of books and articles included is 977. Notes are appended, as usual, to most of the titles, giving a brief analysis of the contents of each volume, or some of the information it contains. While this annual does not include more than about one-seventh of the geographic titles of each year, most of its selections are among the more important books and papers; and the fact that they are often the latest works on their respective topics increases the usefulness of the collection. The numbers 867–911 relate to the United States, and many of the notes in this section are written by Mr. de Margerie, the French geologist; Dr. Angot, meteorologist; and Mr. B. L. Miller.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF CHILE AND BRAZIL.—The latest additions to the lists of books, magazine articles, and maps dealing with the Latin-American countries, which are being prepared by Mr. P. Lee Phillips, are those relating to Chile and Brazil. They are compiled for the International Bureau of the American Republics and are supplementary to the Handbooks issued by the Bureau. The compilations will be of much value for special workers, and even the maps of early date have at least historical interest. The list for Brazil has 145 and that for Chile 110 pages.

NOTES.

La Revue de Géographie opens the year with a new dress and form and a number of excellent photographs. The larger page makes it possible to print many maps without folding. The editors say that the innovations are due to the demand of the public for a more artistic presentation of even the most serious scientific literature.

Th. H. Engelbrecht, member of the Prussian House of Deputies, has published (Paul Parey, Berlin, 1903) "Die geographische Verteilung der Getreidepreise in den Vereinigten Staaten von 1862 bis 1900." The tables, in which appear the average prices of all our leading agricultural staples in every State and Territory for 38 years, certainly cost enormous labour. The advantages of such compilations for all who have occasion to study the history of prices is evident. The writer points out many of the factors that have influenced these variations in prices. This book is the first of a series on this subject that will cover the leading countries.

Bulletin 70 of the New York State Museum will be welcomed by collectors of minerals. It is a list, prepared by Mr. H. P. Whitlock, of the recorded localities where mineral specimens are found in New York State. The pamphlet will be a desirable guide to collectors, teachers, and students in the field of excursions.

WET YEARS IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.—H. C. Russell, Government Astronomer of New South Wales, has recently investigated the popular notion (in Australia) that, if abundant rain falls in England, the following year in Australia will also be wet (Journ. and Proc., Royal Soc., N. S. Wales, XXXVI, 1902, 314). The rainfalls of England and of New South Wales, from 1875 to 1901, when plotted together, show very irregular conditions. Although heavy rains in England are sometimes followed by heavy rains in Australia in the following year, this is seldom the case. For example, the years 1894 to 1901 showed an abundance of rain in England, but Australia suffered from a severe drought. The statement that a wet year in England is followed by a wet year in Australia is therefore a fallacy.

R. DEC. W.

DEMTSCHINSKY'S LONG-RANGE FORECASTS.—In 1901 N. Demtschinsky, a Russian engineer, began the publication of a journal under the title, CLIMAT, devoted to the promulgation of his views on long-range forecasts, and containing such forecasts for various parts of Europe. These forecasts are based chiefly on supposed lunar influences, and are illustrated by series of curves of considerable complexity. Some idea of the confidence felt by Demtschinsky may be gained from the fact that a paper published in 1900 bore the title, *Sur la Possibilité de prédire le Temps aussi longtemps d'Avance qu'on le désire.* The views advanced in CLIMAT naturally met with adverse criticism on the part of all scientific men who thought them worthy of any comment whatever, but there has, until lately, been no critical study of Demtschinsky's theory and forecasts. Now, Professor Klossovsky, of the University of Odessa, a well-known meteorologist, has published a thorough *Examen de la Méthode de la Prédiction du Temps de M. N. Demtschinsky* (Odessa, 1903, 8vo, 72 pp.), in which the absurdity of the whole scheme advanced by Demtschinsky is exposed. It is to be hoped that this paper will be widely read wherever fantastic notions as to the possibility of long-range weather forecasts prevail.

R. DeC. W.

23,399 FEET IN THE HIMALAYAS.—In the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for January there is a summary of recent mountain climbing in the northwestern Himalayas, completed during the past season by Dr. and Mrs. Bullock Workman. Dr. Workman reached 23,399 feet on a fixed peak of 24,486 feet, "which gives him the world mountaineering record for men, the greatest height before attained being the summit of Aconcagua, 23,083 feet, the highest of the Andes." At a camp at 17,100 feet, the solar radiation thermometer registered 204° Fahr., the air temperature (shade) being 56° Fahr. at the same time. Snowshoes greatly facilitated progress after the thin outer crust of the snow gave way under the powerful sun, but the difficulty of travel was so great that at one time daily camps had to be pitched as early as 10 A.M. At the altitude of 19,355 feet more than half the coolies were prostrated by mountain sickness.

R. DeC. W.

Ergänzungsheft No. 144 of *Petermanns Mitteilungen* is given to "Die antarktischen Eisverhältnisse" by Henryk Arctowski of the *Belgica* expedition. This contribution to the physical geography of the Antarctic is in the form of Arctowski's diary, and is published without change, just as he noted the phenomena from day to day. It is thus, as the author says, only the raw material for a future monograph on the Antarctic ice conditions, which may well be written after the return of the various expeditions. The book is illustrated by numerous sketches of icebergs, the ice and snow conditions of the land, etc.

A station for scientific observers has been erected on the Ofoten railroad at Wassijaure, near the boundary between Sweden and Norway, about 130 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It was built by a professor in the University of Stockholm, and funds to support it are supplied by other private subscriptions. The station will give scientific men an opportunity to investigate polar phenomena under comfortable conditions and at small expense. The first observers to occupy it are the geologist Westergren, the entomologist Haglund, the botanist Roman, and an expert in forestry. Meteorological, magnetic, and other studies fitting the time will be carried on in winter.

La Nature says that Mr. Dybowski, the Inspector General of Colonial Agriculture, will be sent by the Minister of the Colonies to Senegal and French Guinea to study the conditions in those possessions, with a view, if possible, to sending agricultural colonists into those regions.

THE UGANDA PROTECTORATE AND THE NILE QUEST.

BALTIMORE, Jan'y 20, 1904.

To the Editor of the BULLETIN,
American Geographical Society:

Allow me to submit the following summary of a note presented in my name to the National Congress of French Geographical Societies at Rouen in August, 1903, by Prof Frédéric Lemoine, of the Collége Rollin, Delegate of the Geographical Society of Paris:

In the month of June, 1901, Col. Chaillé-Long called the attention of Gen. Bassot, sub-chief of the General Staff and Director of the Geographical Service of the Army to errors in sheets 28, 36 and 37 of the map of Africa on the scale of 1:2,000,000.

Gen. Bassot, in his reply, promised that the errors indicated should be corrected, as far as possible, in future issues of the sheets in question.

The sheet 36 will show, therefore, the line of Col. Chaillé-Long's itinerary in the country of the Makraka, completed in its western part as far as Gebel Lingeterre, as laid down by him; and also the section Rubaga-Lake Ibrahim of the explorer's route from Gondokoro to Rubaga.

As to the name of Lake Ibrahim, which was discovered by Col. Chaillé-Long in 1874 (and named Ibrahim by the Khédive Ismaïl), Gen. Bassot considers that the name should be maintained (to the exclusion of Choga or Kodja) and it will accordingly appear in future editions of sheet No. 36.

These rectifications by the Geographical Service of the French Army deserve the attention of conscientious cartographers.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary General of the Paris Geographical Society, on the 24th of May, 1903, Col. Chaillé-Long protests against the expressions used by Sir Harry Johnston in a recent work : *The Uganda Protectorate.* Sir Harry writes that when Gen. Gordon succeeded Sir Samuel Baker at Khartum (in 1874) he sent *two or more of his cosmopolitan white assistants—Belgians and Americans—to spy out the land in Uganda.*

To set in their true light the facts here wilfully misrepresented by Sir Harry Johnston, Col. Chaillé-Long makes the following statement as to the two messengers of Gordon.

The first, Chaillé-Long himself, was an officer of the Egyptian Army and Chief of Staff of General Gordon, then Governor-General of the Equatorial Provinces of